



SINI 5+ FOCUS!

Volume 1 Number 4

June 2011

Welcome summer! I hope you're all planning to take time to refresh and relax over the summer. At our meeting in May you indicated that you're celebrating the results of much hard work by many people. Everyone deserves at least a short break to replenish your energy and renew your commitment to the work ahead. After all, there will be a new crop of bright, eager young people bounding through your doors come September. You'll need all the energy you have to give them the best learning experience ever!

This issue of *SINI 5 FOCUS!* is being distributed to the "veteran" group who have been implementing a restructuring plan throughout 2010-2011 as well as the "new" group of schools who have just completed an intensive assessment and plan development process. The new members of the SINI 5+ group submitted their restructuring plan to the Department in May and will be receiving feedback soon. Some will be implementing their restructuring strategies over the summer, some starting in September. I encourage you to review the list at the end of this issue of the newsletter and connect with each other to share lessons learned, helpful resources, and other forms of collegial support.

SINI 5+ Focus!

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Don't forget to post your plan!

One requirement for schools at all stages of the accountability pathway ("school in need of improvement" status) is to post the plan for improvement on the school's website. As part of your commitment to your community, you need to inform them of your efforts to ensure every child has a successful educational experience.

In New Hampshire, there is a strong culture of local control of the educational enterprise. Citizens speak proudly of their own schools and the educators who work in them. This positive relationship between the community and its schools is strengthened by frequent and clear communication. Posting the school's plan for improvement, and providing opportunities for conversation about the strategies in the plan, contributes to building those critical bridges between citizens and the schools.



A word to the wise: be sure your plan is written in the clearest language possible, avoiding jargon and 'insider-ese.' PLUS be sure to check spelling and punctuation before posting!

Steps to Success Logins

ADI, the developer of Steps to Success (Indistar®) has begun to de-activate logins that have had no activity for the previous six months.

If you get the message that your account has been de-activated due to inactivity, contact Karen (karen.laba@ed.state.nh.us) or Joe Trunk (jtrunk@rmcres.com) to re-activate.

Practices Before Programs

Doug Reeves is an admired education researcher. His studies and reports on 90-90-90 schools (90% high poverty; 90% ethnic minority; and 90% of students meeting district or state achievement standards in reading) inspired the search for the factors contributing to the success of these schools serving typically disadvantaged student populations.

In a recent ASCD blog (*ASCD Express*, Vol. 6, No. 7. www.ascd.org/ascdexpress), Reeves presents strong advice to schools in his essay, "A Clearer Focus on Fewer Practices." He cites a fundamental conclusion from the decades of research he and his colleagues have conducted: "practices, not programs, matter most."

He describes struggling schools overwhelmed by competing demands and fragmented initiatives/ goals/ programs. Reeves cites an amazing conclusion of his study: "schools with 6 or fewer priorities had the greatest gains in student achievement." (*emphasis added*)

Reeves extends his argument by describing what all school improvement coaches have seen and heard: schools are good at talking in 'labels' about their school improvement work – "we're doing RTI/ PLCs/ professional development" -- but less skilled at implementing fully and effectively the instructional practices at the core of these programs. He reiterates the findings of his work:

“One enduring conclusion remains: the common characteristics of these [the 90/90/90] schools were not the programs they purchased but the practices their teachers and administrators implemented.”

Reeves’ advice reinforces what school teams using *Steps to Success* (Indistar®) are urged to consider: the changes that matter first and foremost are those that happen in the classroom. ANY school can map out a path to excellence by reinforcing core instruction practices described in these indicators:

“All teachers clearly state the lesson’s topic, theme and objectives”; “
“All teachers re-teach when necessary”;
“All teachers encourage students to check their own comprehension”
“All teachers use a variety of instructional modes.”

These indicators describe practices -- not programs -- that have demonstrated effectiveness. School improvement teams are heeding Reeve’s advice by focusing attention where education matters – in the classroom.

Transition to *Steps* for SINIs in Progress

A quick FYI: the Department is beginning to transition to using the *Steps to Success* tool as the framework for developing improvement plans for all SINIs.

The first phase of the transition began this May when newly identified Schools In Need of Improvement (SINI) were offered the option of using *Steps to Success* to assess current practices against a selected set of 10 indicators of effective practice. Following the assessment of current practices, schools will use the *Steps* system to develop a plan for improvement for those indicators which are most likely to lead to better student achievement. The *Steps* system will be used throughout the coming year to monitor implementation of the plan’s activities and to report progress at the end of the year.

In case you are asked for advice on the plan development process, please be aware that transitions are underway so your experience one or two years ago will be different from the process planned for newly identified schools. Advise those you talk with to contact their DOE Title I Project Manager or, for non-Title I schools, contact Merry Fortier (mfortier@ed.state.nh.us)

Please distribute this newsletter to your team members and others providing school improvement assistance to you. Send along suggestions for topics or requests for advice to help move your work forward. Celebrate the growing daylight! *Karen*

K. Laba, NH Title I Support Consultant karen.laba@ed.state.nh.us; karenlaba@comcast.net;
603 743-5129 603 969-0988

SINI 5+ (restructuring implementation) Schools –Contacts

**PLUS SINI 4 and 5 “hold” schools (made AYP for the previous year; must make two years to exit SINI status)*

SINI 5+ Contacts Revised June 2011

SAU/ District	School	Principal Email
2009 SINI 4 Hold (choosing to implement)		
#61 Farmington	Henry Wilson Memorial Tel: 603-755-2181	Jeffrey Keene jkeene@sau61.com Steve Woodward swoodward@sau61.com
#38 Hinsdale	Hinsdale Elementary Tel: 603 336-5332	Scott Lyman slyman@hnhds.org
#33 Raymond	Gove MS Tel: 603-895-3394	Ellen Small e.small@sau33.com
2010 SINI 5 – Restructuring Implementation		
#82 Chester	Chester Academy Tel: 603-887-3621 (X 145)	Leslie Leahy lesliel@chesteracademy.org Maggie Holm maggieh@chesteracademy.org
#11 Dover	Dover MS Tel: 603-516-7204	Christine Boston c.boston@dover.k12.nh.us
#18 Franklin	Bessie Rowell Tel: 603-934-5116	Kevin Barbour kbarbour@franklin.k12.nh.us Mike Hoyt mhoyt@franklin.k12.nh.us
#27 Litchfield	Griffin Memorial School Tel: 603-424-5931	Bo Schlichter bschlichter@litchfieldsd.org Ronda Gregg rgregg@litchfieldsd.org
#37 Manchester	Beech Street Elementary Tel: 603-624-6314	Ellie Murphy emurphy@mansd.org
#37 Manchester	Henry Wilson Elementary Tel: 603-624-6350	Linda Durand ldurand@mansd.org Christine Brennan cbrennan@mansd.org Stephanie Wheeler swheeler@mansd.org
#42 Nashua	Fairgrounds Elementary Tel: 603-594-4318	Chuck Healey healeyc@nashua.edu
#42 Nashua	Ledge Street Elementary Tel: 603-594-4337	Janet Valeri valerij@nashua.edu
#42 Nashua	Mt. Pleasant Elementary Tel: 603-594-4331	Mary Frances Tintle tintlem@nashua.edu
#43 Newport	Newport MS Tel: 603-863-2414	Barry Connell bconnell@newport.k12.nh.us
#64 Wakefield	Paul School Tel: 603 522-8891	Traci Lynn Moser tmoser@wakefiled.k12.nh.us
#59 Winnisquam Regional	Winnisquam MS Tel: 603-286-7143	Pamela A. Miller pmiller@wrsdsau59.org Suzan Gannett sgannett@wrsdsau59.org
2010 SINI 5 HOLD		
#34 Hillsboro Deering	Hillsboro Deering ES Tel: 603-464-1110	Noreen McAloon, Ed.D. nmcaloon@hdsd.k12.nh.us
SINI 6 -- Implementation		
#37 Manchester	Northwest Elementary Tel: 603-624-6321	Shelly Larochelle slarochelle@mansd.org

2010 SINI 4 (restructuring planning) moving to SINI 5 (restructuring implementation)

SAU/ District	School/ Phone	Principal/Contact , Email,
#6 Claremont	Disnard Elementary 603 543- 4260	Melissa Lewis mlewis@claremont.k12.nh.us
# 7 Colebrook	Colebrook Elementary 603-237-4801	Mary M. Jolles mjolles@colebrook.k12.nh.us
# 53 Deerfield	Deerfield Elementary 603-463-7422	Paul Yergeau pyergeau@sau53.org
#49 Governor Wentworth	Kingswood Middle School 603-569-3689	Kirkland (Rusty) O. Ross rross@govwentworth.k12.nh.us
#27 Litchfield	Litchfield Middle school 603-424-2133	Thomas Lecklider tlecklider@litchfieldsd.org
#37 Manchester	Bakersville 603-624-6312	Judith Adams juadams@mansd.org
#37 Manchester	Hallsville 603-624-6332	James E. Davenport jdavenport@mansd.org
#37 Manchester	McDonough 603-624-6373	Kenneth V. Dibenedetto kdibenedetto@mansd.org
#43 Newport	Towle Elementary 603-863-2050	Kathryn M. Niboli & Margaret McKenney mcnib@newport.k12.nh.us
#33 Raymond	Lamprey River ES 603-895-3117	Daniel LeGallo d.legallo@sau33.com
#33 Raymond	Raymond HS 603-895-6616	Kirk Beitler k.beitler@sau33.com
#54 Rochester	Chamberlain St. ES 603-332-5258	Stephen M. Leclair leclair.s@rochesterschools.com
#56 Somersworth	Hilltop Es 603-692-2435	Katherine (Kate) Segal ksegal@sau56.org
#56 Somersworth	Maple Wood ES 603-692-3331	Caroline F. Butler cbutler@sau56.k12.nh.us
#56 Somersworth	Somersworth MS	Michael Quigley mquigley@sau56.org
#16 Exeter	Exeter Cooperative Middle 603 775-8700	TBD